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The Editors' Page

TESTS are necessary wherever guesses are inadequate. Primitive man guessed at distances, weights, temperatures, time and rainfall; we have found it necessary to measure them. We guarantee safety in travel only by innumerable tests of the materials that go into our airplanes, automobiles, trains, bridges and railroads. The educational historian of the future will probably point to the rise and spread of mental testing in the early twentieth century as one of the most important developments in the entire history of education. Certainly no movement having to do with the training of children has ever established itself so widely in so short a period of time. Twenty years ago not one school child in a thousand had ever been given any kind of standardized test. Today, it is certain that the use of mental testing will soon become practically universal.

ALTHOUGH some tests used are crude and unreliable, these are being replaced by scientifically constructed tests whose limits of error have been carefully investigated. Even good tests can be misused, and sometimes are; but teachers and school administrators are rapidly learning caution and skill. Without tests the school psychologist would feel himself as helpless as would the physician who had been deprived of his testing instruments. In schools where tests are not used one often finds children misgraded by as much as two whole years; the gifted child may often be overlooked; and the normal child with a curable reading defect may be mistaken for feeble-minded.

NO, mental testing is not a fad. The future will see many kinds of psychological measuring scales that have not yet been thought of. In the light of knowledge which such measures will afford, teachers will be able to devote their efforts intelligently, instead of blindly as in the past; the difficulties of problem children will be diagnosed and effectively treated; and scientific occupational guidance will be possible.

Lewis M. Terman

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THE FORECAST FOR OCTOBER

KEYNOTES OF FAMILY LIVING
Dedicated to Anna Garlin Spencer

EDITORIAL
Bird S. Gans

THE FAMILY—PAST, PRESENT AND TO COME
Sidonie Matsner Gruenberg

SOLIDARITY
Cécile Pilpel

LOVE AND AFFECTION
Ruth Brickner

VIEWED FROM THE PARENTS' SIDE
Marion M. Miller

FAMILY FRICTIONS
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